This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) [[A]] An isolated gene comprising either one of [[base]] nucleotide sequences selected from:

(a) a [[base]] nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1,

[[(b) a base sequence which encodes a protein having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the base sequence is a base sequence in which one or a plural number of base(s) is/are deleted, added or substituted from the base sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1,]]

[[(c)]] (b) a [[base]] nucleotide sequence which encodes a protein having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity and hybridizes with the [[base]] nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 under stringent conditions,

wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization using a DNA derived from a colony or plaque, or a filter to which a fragment of the DNA is fixed, in the presence of 0.7 to 1.0 M NaCl at 65°C, and then washing the filter with 0.1 to 2-fold of a SSC solution at 65°C,

[[(d)]] (c) a [[base]] nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2, and

[[(e)]] (d) a [[base]] nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence in which one or a plural number of amino ac did(s) is/are deleted, added or substituted from the amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2, and

[[(f)]] (e) a [[base]] nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence having [[60%]] 95% or more [[of]] homology with the amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated DNA [[which encodes a signal peptide as defined in claim 3, which comprises]] consists of [[a base]] the nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 8.

5. (Previously presented) A vector containing the gene according to claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) [[The vector according to claim 5,]]
A vector containing an isolated gene comprising either one of nucleotide sequences selected from:
(a) a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1,
(b) a nucleotide sequence which encodes a protein having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity and hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 under stringent conditions,
wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization using a DNA derived from a colony or plaque, or a filter to which a fragment of the DNA is fixed,
in the presence of 0.7 to 1.0 M NaCl at 65°C, and then washing the filter with 0.1 to 2-fold of an SSC solution at 65°C,
wherein said vector further contains the DNA as defined in claim 4.

7. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 6, wherein said vector is plasmid pKK-EnHCH1.

8. (Currently amended) [[A transformant]] An isolated transformed cell containing the gene as defined in claim 1 [[or the vector as defined in claim 5]].

9. (Currently amended) [[A transformant]] An isolated transformed cell containing the gene as defined in claim 1 [[or the vector as defined in claim 6]].

10. (Currently amended) [[A transformant]] An isolated transformed cell containing the gene as defined in claim 1 [[or the vector as defined in claim 7]].

11. (Currently amended) The transformant according to claim 8, wherein [[a]] the host is *E. coli*.

12. (Currently amended) The transformant according to claim 9, wherein [[a]] the host is *E. coli*.

13. (Currently amended) The transformant according to claim 10, wherein [[a]] the host is *E. coli*.

14. (Previously presented) The transformant according to claim 8, wherein the host is *E. coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

15. (Previously presented) The transformant according to claim 9, wherein the host is *E. coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

16. (Previously presented) The transformant according to claim 10, wherein the host is *E. coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

17. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of [[the protein as defined in claim 2, which comprises using the gene as defined in Claim 1]] a protein comprising either one of amino acid sequence selected from:
(a) an amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2,
(b) an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence having 95% or more of homology with the amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2, comprising culturing the isolated transformed cell of claim 8.

18-21 (Cancelled)